



2017-2018

# LA HABRA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## BIENNIAL REPORT



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# Mission

"In partnership with our community, we provide the highest quality of police service with pride, respect, integrity, and professionalism."

## OUR VALUES

**Integrity** – Acting in a manner that is consistent with our stated values.

Treating others as we would like to be treated. – **Respect**

**Trust** – Following through with our responsibilities in a sincere and honest way.

Exceeding expectations and providing outstanding programs and services to our community. – **Excellence**

**Partnership** – Actively engaging and collaborating with our residents, business and community organizations.

Being accountable for our actions. – **Responsibility**

**Loyalty** – Promoting the community's interests as our highest professional priority.



# Community & Relationships

## **Dear neighbor:**

It is my honor and privilege to present the La Habra Police Department's 2017–2018 Biennial Report. Inside, you'll read about how we're mixing new technology and policing techniques with good, old-fashioned police work to solve crime and maintain our community's exceptional safety record. Our detectives are using DNA evidence to help the District Attorney's Office obtain justice for crime victims while our K9 and bike patrol teams work to deter crime.

In this report, you'll read about Detective Noah Daniels' award-winning community-policing efforts, our partnership with the Special Olympics, and the many other ways the La Habra Police Department works to build close relationships with the community to ensure La Habra remains an outstanding place to live, to work, and to visit.

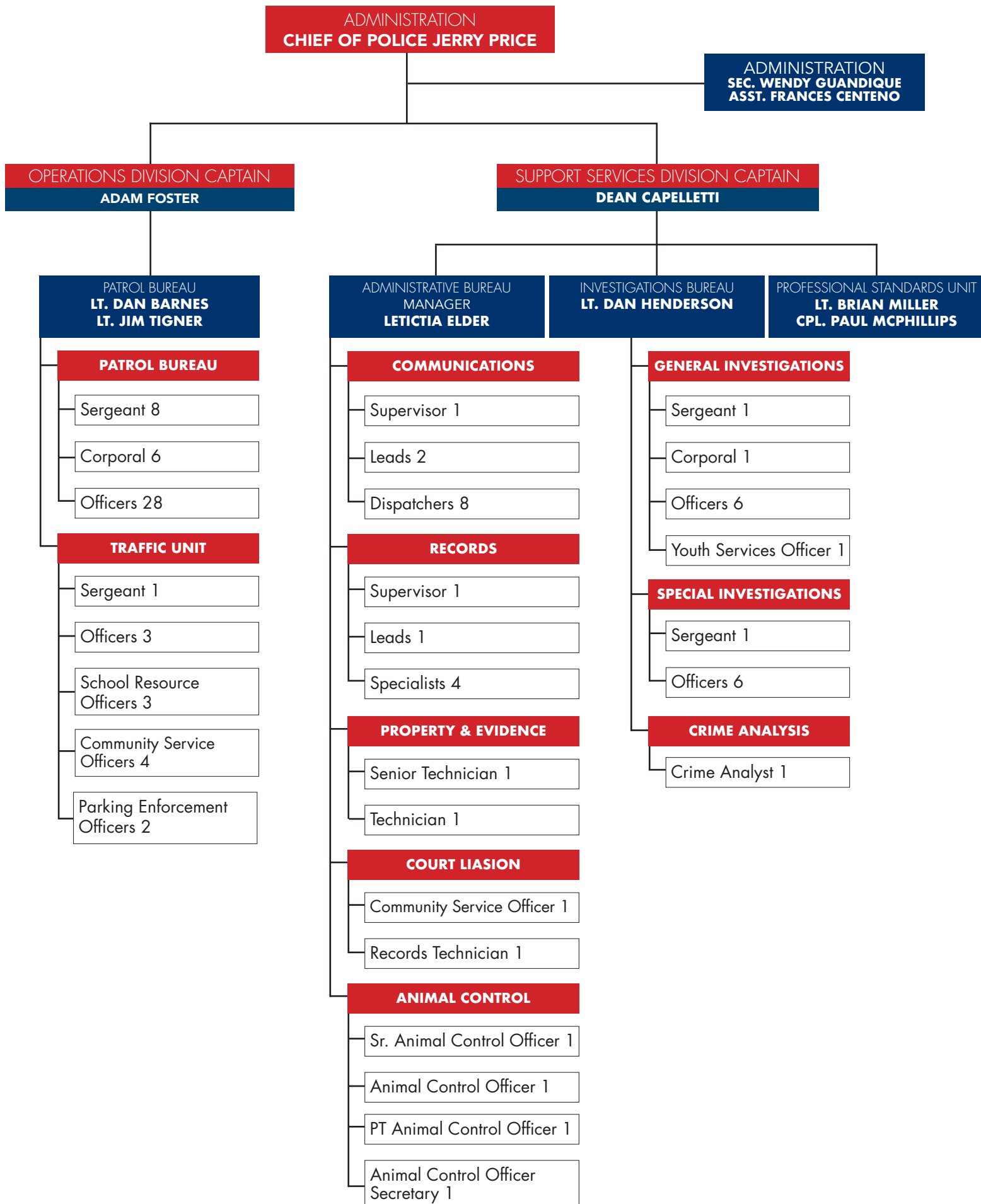
As always, we welcome your feedback – positive and constructive – about the biennial report, issues in your neighborhood, and the community in general.

Thank you for your partnership. Here's to a great and safe rest of 2019.

**Chief Jerry Price**

JPrice@lahabracity.com







## ARSON



## HOMICIDE



## RAPE



## ROBBERY



## ASSAULT



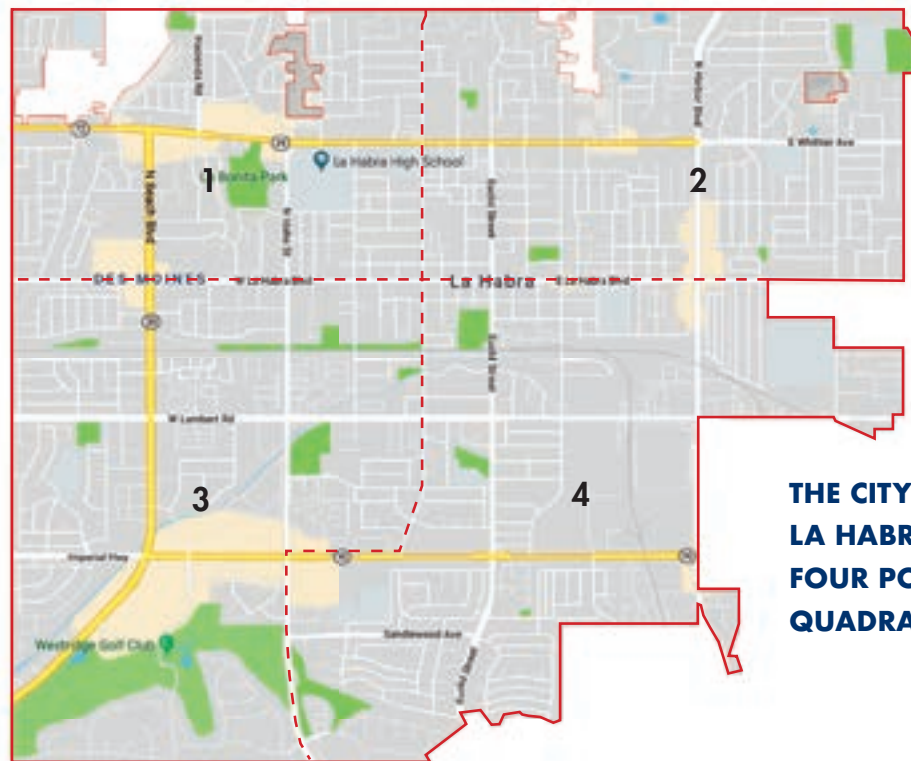
## BURGLARY



## VEHICLE THEFT



## THEFT



**THE CITY OF  
LA HABRA'S  
FOUR POLICE  
QUADRANTS**

**THE AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES ARE:**

**4:04**

**MINUTES**

FOR PRIORITY 1  
CALLS IN 2018

**3:50**

**MINUTES**

FOR PRIORITY 1  
CALLS IN 2017

**14:10**

**MINUTES**

FOR PRIORITY 2  
CALLS IN 2018

**14:11**

**MINUTES**

FOR PRIORITY 2  
CALLS IN 2017

The **CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGIES** service delivery model was implemented in 2013 to better address crime issues and **improve quality of life** through accountability, professional responsibility, and strategic use of police resources. This model allows the department to achieve **enhanced community outreach**. La Habra is divided into two geographic areas (east and west) commanded by a lieutenant, and attention is focused on areas that experience the highest number of reported crimes.

**PRIORITY 1 CALLS**

**IN-PROGRESS CRIMES,  
EMERGENCIES &  
INJURY TRAFFIC  
ACCIDENTS**

**1,126**

IN 2018

**1,118**

IN 2017

**PRIORITY 2 CALLS**

**ALARM CALLS,  
PEACE & FAMILY  
DISTURBANCES,  
AND NON-INJURY  
TRAFFIC COLLISIONS**

**13,555**

IN 2018

**14,135**

IN 2017

**PRIORITY 3 CALLS**

**STANDARD REQUESTS  
FOR POLICE REPORTS**

**19,577**

IN 2018

**19,033**

IN 2017



**28**

**PATROL  
OFFICERS**

**8**

**PATROL  
SERGEANTS**

**2**

**PATROL  
LIEUTENANTS**

**PATROL BUREAU** members are the most visible members of the police department. The men and women who work patrol provide service to the community **24 hours a day**, seven days a week on a schedule that is divided into seven teams. There are two lieutenants, eight sergeants, six corporals, and 28 officers in the Patrol Bureau. The officers respond to calls for service and **perform numerous tasks**, which include but are not limited to taking reports, responding to **crimes in progress**, responding to **medical emergencies**, investigating **traffic collisions**, and conducting traffic and crowd control at major incident scenes.

**RESERVE OFFICERS** work on a part-time basis and perform the same functions as regular, full-time police officers. The La Habra Police Department currently has six level 1 reserve officers. Just like their full-time counterparts, they are required



to have successfully completed the California Peace Officer Standards and Training Basic Academy prior to appointment. They are **armed, uniformed peace officers** who work **part time** for the department in a variety of assignments. Currently, some work in the field on

uniformed patrol, others assist with assigned cases in the Investigations Bureau, and others supplement the work done by the Traffic Bureau. They also assist the department in staffing local events such as the Corn Festival, the city's Fourth of July Celebration, and the Citrus Fair.



# 2013

BIKE PATROL  
RE-ESTABLISHED

# 14

BIKE PATROL  
OFFICERS

# 3

YEARS  
ON BIKES FOR  
HALLOWEEN



**BIKE PATROL** officers spend many nights on their specially equipped bicycles. The bike patrol is one of policing's **most effective tools**.

"The amount of stuff you can see and hear is unreal," Sergeant Kyle Davis said. "We're right on them before they can act."

With limited lights, no engine sound, and no vehicle on the street, there's little to tip off criminals.

Halloween, Christmas, high shopping periods, the Corn Festival, the Citrus Fair, and the Fourth of July often find bike patrol at its busiest.

One of the officers' favorite things about being on the bikes is the interaction with the community.

"It shows the public is appreciative of what we're doing for the betterment of the community," Davis said.

**On Halloween night**, hordes of parents and

children walking neighborhoods make it difficult for officers in patrol cars to reach people if an incident occurs. That's where bicycle patrol comes in.

"It's a little bit easier to maneuver around in the crowds," Corporal Craig Hentcy said.

"Our main purpose is to go out there and show a police presence," Officer Cameron Luitwieler said.

"We have tons of kids running up and trying to get pictures with us or trying to get candy."

On Halloween bike patrols, people asked Hentcy if he's a "real cop" or if he's wearing a costume.

"Yes, we're real cops. No, we're not in costume," Hentcy laughs. "(The uniform) is distinctly different from the standard uniform. It does catch people off guard."

And bike patrol officers also **make arrests**. The most common crime on Halloween night is property theft, often from people not locking their vehicles.



4

COMMUNITY  
SERVICE  
OFFICERS

3

MOTOR  
OFFICERS

5

DUI CHECKPOINTS  
IN 2017-2018

The **TRAFFIC BUREAU** promotes overall traffic safety, which includes conducting enforcement of state and municipal laws, public education programs about **traffic safety**, and working with the city's traffic engineer and public works departments. The Traffic Bureau also enforces state and municipal **parking laws** to ensure compliance, prevent blight, **reduce crime**, and maximize the efficiency of street sweepers. In addition to day-to-day supervision, the traffic sergeant applies for and manages traffic-related grants from the state and federal governments, and provides oversight for the **Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Unit**, crossing guard program, Police Explorers post, radio patrol volunteers, and the **IMPACT team**, a regional investigative team that handles major and/or fatal traffic collisions.

## TRAFFIC BUREAU'S OTS OPERATIONS

The California Department of Transportation Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) funded:

- A Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Command Post Trailer
- DUI/driver's license checkpoints
- DUI patrols
- Red light patrols
- Intersection patrols
- Speed patrols
- Distracted driving

2

PARKING  
ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICERS



**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS** are more important than ever in a world in which bullying and threats of school violence are a common occurrence.

At the La Habra Police Department, being a school resource officer is a **special assignment**.

It's a difficult job, navigating school policies, fights on campus, gangs, drugs, and more, but La Habra's officers handle the tasks with grace.

The relationships with students make the job worthwhile for Nate Garcia, school resource officer for the city's middle and elementary schools; Nicholas Vazquez, school resource officer at Sonora High School; and Justin Bender, school resource officer at La Habra High School.

"I'm dealing with **a lot of kids**, getting to know them, and interacting," Vazquez said.

"As they get to know me ... they have a **different perspective** of

what we do."

"They have more respect and in turn, they help us with a lot of investigations," Vazquez said.

Bender has a special relationship with La Habra High – he graduated from the school and has returned to **help current students**.

"I feel like I can make a difference," Bender said.

Bender and two other officers visited the home of high school senior **Roger Palma**, then 18, when Palma had missed multiple days of class at La Habra High School.

"I was like, 'Oh, man, what did I do?' I thought I did something bad," Palma said. "When he started explaining he was here for more of **a checkup**...rather than to arrest me, it still made me kind of nervous. My family was very concerned."

After that visit, Palma began **attending class** more consistently.

“

I feel like

I can make

a difference.”

— OFFICER

**JUSTIN BENDER**

3

**SCHOOL RESOURCE  
OFFICERS**

2

**HIGH SCHOOLS**

9

**MIDDLE AND  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOLS**





The **SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS (SWAT) TEAM** is a regional team that covers most of north Orange County. The La Habra Police Department is a founding member of the team, which is composed of police personnel from the Cities of La Habra, Brea, Fullerton, La Palma, Placentia, and California State University, Fullerton. With these **shared resources**, La Habra has a fully functional self-contained team that includes **crisis negotiators**, **tactical dispatchers**, and **tactical medics**.

The North County SWAT team is highly trained and called upon to address cases such as barricaded suspects, hostage rescues, high-risk search warrants, officer down rescues, dignitary protection, and other situations. The La Habra Police Department currently has eight police

officers assigned as **operators** and two assigned to the **sniper** team.

Operators on the SWAT team have various assignments depending on the situation; however, ultimately they are the officers making entry into a building. In addition to those 10 officers, three officers are assigned to the **crisis negotiation** team and one **communications** operator is assigned to the tactical dispatch team. Some of the crisis negotiators are **bilingual**. La Habra Police Department has one lieutenant that serves on the North County SWAT team as a commander, along with another participating city's lieutenant.

**Training** is paramount to maintain the **tactical skills** necessary for successful outcomes in critical situations. They work with other local SWAT teams and the Orange County Sheriff's Department regularly.



22

**AVERAGE HOURS**

SWAT TEAM  
MEMBERS TRAIN  
PER MONTH

16

**LA HABRA  
PERSONNEL  
ARE ON THE  
SWAT TEAM**



**K9 EMERSON:** The Golden Retriever and Labrador mix who offered consolation to those in need as a comfort K9, died in 2018 after nearly a decade of service.



**K9 RITA:** Officer Travis Nelson is the handler for Rita, a German Shepherd and the department's first female K9. Rita was funded by the La Habra Police Department K9 Foundation, a non-profit that provides financial support to the K9 Unit.



**K9 RENZO:** The 7-year-old Dutch Shepherd is handled by Officer Amsony Mondragon. Renzo and his handler worked patrol and helped the police department by locating suspects and weapons. Renzo recently retired.

The **K9 UNIT** bid a happy retirement to K9 Prinz, a Belgian Malinois, and K9 Rocky, a Golden Retriever, in 2017. They were responsible for sniffing out massive amounts of narcotics and **keeping officers safe**. The department also recently retired K9 Renzo, who worked patrol and sniffed out suspects and weapons for the department.

At the same time, city officials and the public welcomed K9 Rita (left) with handler Officer Travis Nelson.

La Habra now has Bobby (below), a narcotics K9, and Rita, who is trained for apprehension.

**NARCOTICS K9** Bobby is an English springer spaniel from Ireland. He and Reserve Officer Rob Sims are a huge asset to the police department.

Bobby in 2014 **sniffed out \$500,000** vacuum-sealed in 12 bricks surrounded by coffee grounds in a mini-refrigerator sprayed with

insecticide and placed inside a wooden container in a wooden crate stored in a shipping container. Although faint, Bobby still detected the scent of methamphetamine on the bills.

Bobby is assigned to the **Investigations Unit**, and frequently assists other local, state, and federal agencies.

"I knew he was going to be good from the beginning," Sims said. "If anything, he's gotten even better."

Bobby and Rita were funded by the **La Habra Police Canine Foundation**, which raised money from private donors to pay for the K9s. Before joining the department, Bobby went through six months of **specialized training** followed by 80 hours of training with Sims.

"It can take four of us the better part of four to six hours to search an average home in La Habra. Bobby can do it in 30 minutes," Sims said.







80

**ARRESTS**

BY THE GENERAL  
INVESTIGATIONS  
UNIT

120

**ARRESTS**

BY THE SPECIAL  
INVESTIGATIONS  
UNIT

The **INVESTIGATION BUREAU** investigates crimes that occur in the city. General Investigations Unit detectives are responsible for cases such as **homicide**, robbery, assault, **domestic violence**, child abuse, motor vehicle theft, **burglary**, larceny, and fraud. Special Investigations Unit detectives are responsible for cases such as **terrorism**, **narcotics**, **vice**, and **gang crimes**. Both units work under the Investigation Bureau Commander.

The **GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT** is responsible for **investigating crimes** committed **within the city** and has six full-time detectives, one sergeant, one youth services officer, two reserve officers, one crime analyst, and one records specialist who serves as unit secretary.

Most of the detectives' caseloads involve follow-up investigation from **crime reports**. Cases are divided into **two categories**: crimes against **persons** or **property** crimes. The crimes range from petty misdemeanors to murder, and everything in between. Detectives often write search warrants, handle volumes of evidence, and present cases to the Orange County District Attorney's Office. In 2017-18, this unit was responsible for over 80 arrests, serving over 80 search warrants, and the issuance of over 50 arrest warrants by criminal court judges.

The **SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT** has six detectives and one sergeant. Two specialize in **gang investigations**, two in **narcotic** and **vice** operations, and two are assigned to **federal task forces** focused on narcotics and profits from narcotics. One Orange County Deputy Probation Officer and one California State Parole Officer assist the unit.

This unit was responsible for **over 120 arrests and 10 search warrants** in 2017-18.

The unit has reduced vandalism, graffiti, and gang activity through **strict enforcement** and cultivating informants and intelligence. The **Narcotics/Vice Unit** works on drug enforcement and investigates the transportation of drugs into the city. The task force detectives have **seized** large amounts of **narcotics** in transit to La Habra and other areas of Orange County, and the task force has been able to seize financial profits from these criminal enterprises.

The **Gang Unit** provides expert testimony and case agent responsibilities during criminal trials. The Narcotics/Vice Unit, along with the City Code Enforcement and Building and Safety Department, targets illegal storefront marijuana dispensaries in La Habra.



**DNA EVIDENCE** is used to identify suspects in criminal cases. When Burglary Detective Jason Willard sees "**CODIS Hit**," in his email, his case is heating up.

The FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) uses **DNA evidence** to help law enforcement identify suspects.

"It will only match one subject," Willard said.

Suspects are often found in other cities, so Willard often goes to the arresting agency to conduct an interview.

"If he says he wasn't there, the DNA located at the scene is proof positive," Willard said. "There's no other excuse."

At least half of Willard's cases involve DNA evidence.

"Most of my DNA submissions come



back with a hit. When something comes back, it's exciting. I love what I do," Willard said.

DNA evidence can be the **foundation** of a case or the piece of evidence that **pulls everything together**.

"Working property crimes, you have to put the puzzle together. We have to be creative and collect evidence that is likely touched only by the suspect," Willard said.

## The **YOUTH SERVICES OFFICER**

caseload involves conducting **follow-up investigations** on all juvenile-related crimes, as well as missing juveniles.

The Youth Services Officer chairs the Juvenile Diversion Program, which is focused on **first-time offenders** and keeping them out of the criminal justice system for petty crimes.



**CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATORS** are primarily responsible for processing crime scenes, collecting DNA, fingerprints, and other **types of evidence**. The officers are POST certified (Peace Officer Standards and Training) in crime scene investigation and their vehicles are stocked with **CSI gear** (fingerprint kits, cameras, crime scene tape, a tape roller for measuring distance, and more).

## ■ ANIMAL CONTROL

The **ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT** is dedicated to ensuring the **safety** and **welfare** of both the **animals** and the **residents** of this community, as well as promoting **responsible pet ownership**. In addition to responding to calls for service regarding strays, animal bites, dog licensing issues, barking complaints, and leash law violations, Animal Control Officers play a lead role in **enforcing anti-cruelty** regulations and investigating reports of **abuse**, **neglect**, or abandonment. They also facilitate getting **veterinary care** for injured animals and every effort is made to promptly **reunite** lost pets with their owners.



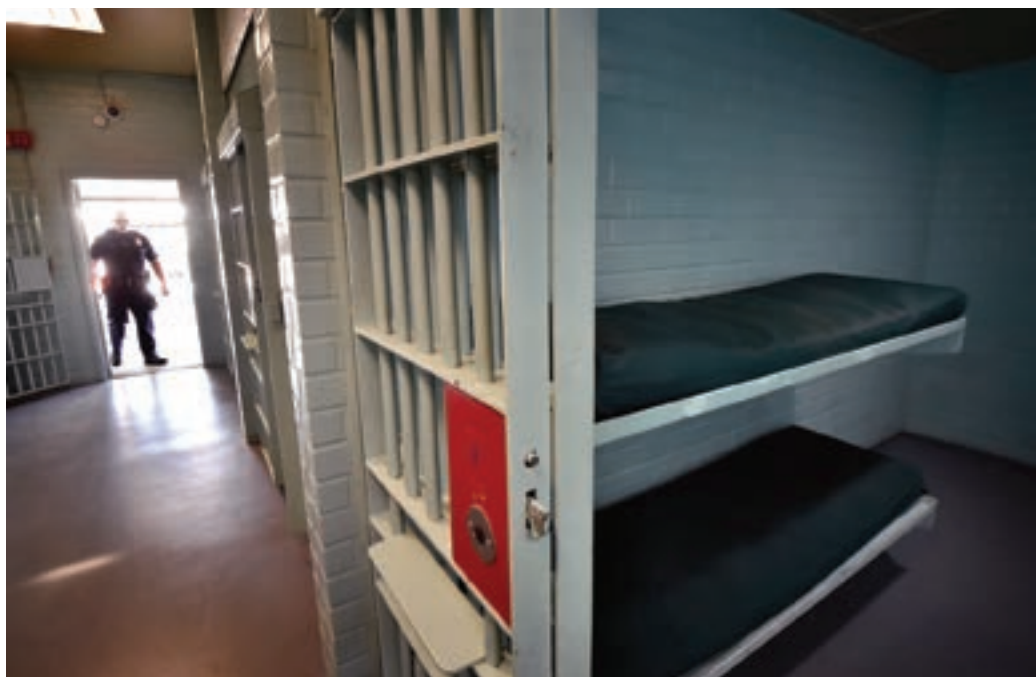
## ■ JAIL FACILITY

**365**

**DAYS PER YEAR**  
THE JAIL IS STAFFED

**17**

**BEDS**  
IN THE CITY JAIL



The **JAIL FACILITY** at the La Habra Police Department is classified as **Type 1** by the California Board of State and Community Corrections. The jail operates **365 days** a year and is staffed 24 hours a day by jail personnel. Jail operations are overseen by a lieutenant who serves as the jail manager and a sergeant who is the jail supervisor.

The jail facility has **17 beds** as well as additional holding cells that provide housing for up to 23 inmates at any given time. Inmates can be held up to 96 hours before they are released, transferred to court, or

moved to another facility. It is the mission of the police department to provide constitutional, **safe, secure,** and humane facilities, which will be an appropriate place for the **temporary detention** of those charged with crimes that require pre-trial detention. All inmates are screened upon entry and are fingerprinted and photographed using **LiveScan**, the most up-to-date automated technology available. LiveScan provides law enforcement with the ability to **quickly identify** individuals while they are in custody so they can be quickly processed.



The **COMMUNICATIONS BUREAU** serves as the primary answering point for **911 emergency calls** in La Habra. In 2017 and 2018, Communications handled more than 90,000 calls for service. The communication operators, who staff the center 24 hours a day, receive specialized training to handle emergency calls and **critical incidents**. This is where requests are received for police, fire, and medical services via 911 and non-emergency lines.

Communications operators field 60 to 100 incoming calls per day. They monitor multiple **radio frequencies**, dispatch calls to police units, access a variety of local, state, and federal databases, assign case numbers, track officer activity, and track resources such as tow trucks, blood technicians, and assisting agencies. One new staff member was hired in 2017.

"They're pretty much rock stars in my book," said Lead Records Specialist Cathy Gonzalez. "It takes a very **disciplined**, very **motivated**, very thick-skinned person to be a dispatcher."

Dispatchers talk to callers in the **worst moments** of their lives. They endure anger, frustration, hectic shifts, and the knowledge that lives are on the line. Through it all, they must be professional, helpful, and calm.

La Habra dispatchers also handle false alarm billing, alarm renewals, trespassing notices, and making copies of calls for court purposes.

"It's different every day," Lead Dispatcher Kristen Kernohan said. "You never know what you're going to come in to. And it's always challenging."

“

If you  
committed  
a crime,  
we're going to  
find out who  
you are.”

— DISPATCHER  
**KRISTEN  
KERNOHAN**

**90,000**

**CALLS FOR SERVICE**  
IN 2017 AND 2018





La Habra  
holds itself to  
high standards  
to provide the  
best service to  
residents.”

— CORPORAL  
PAUL MCPHILLIPS

2000

APPLICATIONS

SCREENED FOR  
POSITIONS WITHIN  
THE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

14

FULL-TIME  
OFFICERS

JOINED THE TEAM

3

COMMUNICATIONS  
OFFICERS

JOINED THE TEAM

The **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT** has a lieutenant and corporal who are responsible for maintaining the **highest** standard of professionalism within the department. Internal and external concerns pertaining to conduct or service are monitored, appropriate investigations generated, and recommendations provided for senior management decisions. The Unit adheres to the **California Peace Officer Standards and Training** (POST) guidelines and facilitates employee training, which includes POST-mandated classes and courses that specialize in specific abilities, making officers well rounded and able to offer a higher level of service. Many La Habra Police Department employees

hold trainer status and train employees and/or other police departments. Their skills include **drug abuse** recognition expert, range master, armorer, composite artist, dealing with the mentally ill, and response to terrorist activities and active shooters.

The Professional Standards Unit is also responsible for **extensive** testing, selection, and background **investigations** for future employees. In 2017 and 2018, they screened over 2,000 applications for positions within the department. Of those that made it through the background process, the La Habra Police Department hired 14 full-time police officers, three communication operators, and two records specialists.



**FIELD TRAINING OFFICERS** and **COMMUNICATION TRAINING OFFICERS** guide and train new officers, records staff, and dispatchers on practical applications of knowledge and skills through evaluating, mentoring, and coaching. La Habra has **10 Field Training Officers** and **five Communication Training Officers**. Officers and records staff train a minimum of 20 weeks and dispatchers train a minimum of 26 weeks to learn conflict resolution, report writing, leadership, community relations, legal authority, decision making, and problem solving skills.



All Patrol Bureau officers are trained to administer the **nasal spray Naloxone/Narcan**, which blocks and reverses the effects of opioids (including heroin, methadone, morphine, opium, codeine, fentanyl, oxycodone, and hydrocodone).

La Habra police officers have had **several successful saves** with the Naloxone/Narcan.

La Habra officers used the spray for the first time on a call in 2017.

"The department issued us these because we're seeing more and more overdoses," Officer Muris Lucarevic said.

Shortly after receiving the nasal spray, the victims begin breathing and regain consciousness.

"It's pretty easy to use and **it is**

**effective**," Lucarevic said.

The officers can also use the nasal spray if they are exposed to an opioid in powder form.

Officers check out one of **16 kits** (containing two doses, gloves, and a mask) at the station when they start their patrol shift.

The kits cannot be kept in the car all the time because the medication is sensitive to extreme heat and cold, and the department has enough to cover the eight to 10 officers working each patrol shift.

Anyone who witnesses a person experiencing an overdose should **immediately dial 911**. California law provides protection from prosecution of drug possession for persons reporting drug-related overdoses.

“

The department issued us these because we're seeing more and more overdoses.”

— OFFICER  
**MURIS LUCAREVIC**

**1 to 3**

**MINUTES**  
FOR THE DRUG  
TO WORK

The **RECORDS BUREAU** provides clerical support with civilian records specialists processing a high volume of confidential documents, ensuring accuracy, organization, and convenient retrieval.

Two new records specialists were hired in 2018.

Records specialists handle and maintain **reports**, including crime reports, arrest reports, traffic collisions, missing persons, and stolen, stored, recovered, or repossessed vehicles, as well as prepare clearance letters for citizens and allied agencies, **process the paperwork** on all arrested persons, and search females in custody. In 2017 and 2018, the Records Unit processed over 13,000 reports.

Records staff are **detail-oriented**, expert **multitaskers**, and able to prioritize. They also help with the front desk and the teletype machine when alerts arrive from other law enforcement agencies.

"It's nonstop," Lead Records Specialist Cathy Gonzalez said. "You just don't have down time. It keeps you on your toes and makes time go by really fast."

The **Records Supervisor** also oversees Police Service Aides, Court Liaisons, Property and Evidence Technicians, the Investigation and Traffic Secretary, and the Animal Control Unit Records Specialist.



The **POLICE SERVICE AIDES'** main responsibility is **assisting** the public at the front desk. These aides, along with Records Specialists, assisted thousands of citizens with obtaining **public records**, releases for stored vehicles, and **processing** payments for animal licenses, parking permits, and booking fees. Their additional tasks include **fingerprinting**, verifying correctable vehicle violations, and filing police reports. **Two PSAs were hired** in 2018.



It's exciting and fast-paced, and every day is different. Each day you've got different reports that are coming in and different duties."

— SUPERVISOR  
**JANINE GORDON**

# 13,000

**REPORTS**

PROCESSED IN  
2017–2018





# 10,000

PIECES  
OF EVIDENCE  
PER YEAR

# 2

TOTAL  
PROPERTY OFFICERS

A **COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER** and **PROPERTY OFFICER** serve as the department's **property technicians** and are responsible for **processing** and **storing** all items collected on a case, including **evidence**, found property, or any item being stored for safekeeping. They are able to **release** found property and property stored for **safekeeping** to its owner after proper photo identification has been provided. Any property logged in as evidence cannot be released

unless a case has been closed and a court order has been issued authorizing the release. For the retrieval of firearms, the owner must follow the established process of the California Department of Justice Bureau of Firearms. Gun owners must complete and submit the Law Enforcement Gun Release Application and be issued a Department of Justice clearance letter before they can receive a firearm from safe keeping or evidence.



The **COURT LIAISON UNIT** links the **court** and the **police department** and is located at the **Superior Court** of California Orange County, North Justice Center. Staff members **prepare paperwork** to file cases with the District Attorney. The two-person unit provides services for the La Habra and Placentia Police Departments and is in contact with court divisions including traffic court, judges, and the Court Administration Department, and consults the Clerk of the Jury Calendar. They **collect property** for cases, such as videos, dispatch tapes, and booking photos. Court Liaisons are also responsible for **distributing subpoenas** and notifying officers when they are required to appear in court.

## ■ CEREMONIAL DETAIL



The **CEREMONIAL DETAIL** at La Habra Police Department is made up of 10 officers responsible for representing the City of La Habra in a **professional** fashion in both appearance and actions at important events.

Officers are selected with these requirements in mind. The Ceremonial Detail's presence is often requested to assist surrounding police departments and has been specifically recognized for its **flag-folding detail** during a funeral ceremony. In 2017-18, the La Habra Police Department's Ceremonial Detail was used on numerous occasions ranging from **funerals and awards banquets** to the **opening ceremonies** of a Los Angeles Clippers game.

## ■ EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)** is run by the part-time Emergency Management Coordinator. The 124 CERT volunteers gained skills to **help themselves and neighbors** in the event of a disaster during 20 hours of instruction held over three Saturdays.

The training, certified through the Los Angeles County Fire Department, was held at the La Habra Community Center. CERT team members received green backpacks with a helmet, mask, duct tape, flashlight and other supplies. Twenty participants are completing **final training** to become formal CERT volunteers.

Emergency preparedness training and information presentations were made to neighborhood groups, parent teacher associations, service clubs, churches, and local businesses, as well as community events and forums.

The Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for **plan development and maintenance**, community preparedness, staff training and exercise, and grants management, as well as coordination with the Orange County Operational Area and Anaheim-Santa Ana Urban Area Security Initiative for regional and local planning, and homeland security.

City staff also participated in the **annual Great ShakeOut**, which included an evacuation drill, assembly and roll call, and first aid kit and fire extinguisher inspection.

The city maintains **supplies and equipment** needed to sustain operations for five days, as well as staff training and certification for Disaster Service Worker Orientation, the Incident Command System, National Incident Command System, and Standardized Emergency Management System.

“

La Habra's a caring  
community, and  
with CERT we  
extend that to being a  
prepared community  
as well.”

— EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
COORDINATOR  
**DAVID GONZALEZ**

**124**

**CERT**  
VOLUNTEERS



The **RADIO PATROL UNIT** is an **unsworn unit** made up of volunteers that serve as an **extra set** of eyes and ears for the La Habra Police Department.

"They're willing to serve and do whatever needs to be done," Sergeant Jim Tigner said.

There are currently seven volunteers. Volunteers must pass a **background check**, evaluation, and train for about **a year** to receive a badge.

"We don't just hand them out," said Fred Milam, a volunteer for nearly 30 years. "That's earned and

we're very protective of it."

The Radio Patrol Unit works alongside police officers to assist in **DUI checkpoints**, events, and traffic controls. They also patrol neighborhoods and conduct **vacation checks**.

"It's my city and I want to protect it," said Ted Singer, who has been with the unit for 16 years. "So any time I can help I feel honored to do so."

"It's an honor and privilege to wear a La Habra Police Department [volunteer] uniform," Singer said.



The **POLICE EXPLORERS PROGRAM** is for those **ages 14 to 21** who are considering a career in law enforcement.

The Explorers get a feel for the **profession** by working in **various units** within the department, such as traffic, investigations, and patrol. They interact with sworn and civilian personnel at all levels of the agency, and they assist with crowd control at community events and go on ride-alongs with La Habra police officers.

There are 25 Explorers in Post 850 and Junior Explorer Club 849.





“

We love this  
because we  
can bring the  
community in and  
they can see what  
we do”

— CAPTAIN  
DEAN CAPELLETTI



The **OPEN HOUSE** held annually at the La Habra Police Department was attended by **hundreds** of community members.

The event featured tours of the department, including the Watch Commander's office, Detective Bureau, and even the jail.

Attendees got to sit on La Habra Police Department motorcycles, handle some of the same tools used by the North County SWAT team, and **look at weapons** confiscated by the gang unit. La Habra police **K9s** awed the crowd with their ability to subdue suspects and sniff out even the most well-hidden narcotics.

“I think it's awesome that we get to experience getting on the bike, getting to see different demonstrations and checking out different aspects of police work that we wouldn't know about if we didn't go to events like this,” said lifelong La Habra resident Marlene Wilson, 37, who came to the open house with her husband and two children.

Kids got their **faces painted** and experienced the feeling of being **fingerprinted**.

“We love this because we can bring the **community** in and they can see what we do,” Captain Dean Capelletti said. “I really like to see the children get excited. We want the children to know that we are here to **help them**, but hopefully we are also **inspiring** the kids to be **public servants**.”





**SPECIAL OLYMPIANS** joined the La Habra Police Department on June 2, 2017, and June 1, 2018, for the **Law Enforcement Torch Run**, an awareness and fundraising campaign for Special Olympics Southern California.

Eleven **Explorers**, seven sworn **officers**, and three **civilian employees** ran 3.2 miles through the city. Six Special Olympians followed in vintage vehicles.

The **Flame of Hope** was carried 1,500 miles through 200 SoCal cities by dozens of agencies.

Community Service Officer II Christina Nunez organizes this leg of the torch run and fundraising efforts. The La Habra Police Department has raised over \$3,000 in the past two years for the Special Olympics.



Open house



Read Across America



Emergency preparedness



Coffee with a Cop





**COOL COPS** held its second annual event on July 26, 2017, at **Las Lomas Park** with families enjoying a summer day in a place that was once overrun with gang activity.

"I grew up in La Habra and I want the kids who live here to have a good time," said Lt. Mel Ruiz, who organizes the event. "I want them to know the police department is here for them and to not be intimidated. This **builds trust** and it goes a long way."

About **300 local kids** attended.

La Habra Community Services Assistant Recreation Manager Katie Elmore said events like Cool Cops help kids **connect the dots** on what a **community** really is.

"It shows them police aren't the bad guys," Elmore said. "They're going to go back to school in a couple of weeks and they're going to be talking about this. This is the **highlight** of their summer."

## 2

### TIMES A YEAR

THE POLICE ACADEMY IS  
CONDUCTED

The **LA HABRA CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY** was developed to create a **closer working relationship** between the La Habra Police Department and La Habra residents. The academy, which is offered **in both English and Spanish**, is conducted **twice a year**. Instruction is provided by police administrators, officers, and civilian employees and consists of weekly **evening classes** held over a six-week period. In addition to classroom instruction, upon graduation participants are given the opportunity to go on a ride-along with an officer and enjoy their newfound **understanding of policing** and the La Habra Police Department.



Have you seen  
that girl over  
there? She's  
a detective!  
That's really  
cool!"

— OVERHEARD AT  
COOL COPS

### SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS:

- Bicycle Patrol
- Coffee with a Cop
- English and Spanish-language Citizens' Academy
- Annual Open House
- National Night Out
- Cool Cops
- Law Enforcement Clubs at middle schools





**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** at Portola Park was attended by over 1,000 La Habra residents in 2017 and 2018.

The event is part of a nationwide community-building effort that promotes **police and community camaraderie**. National Night Out, now in its 36th year, is held the first Tuesday in August and is celebrated by 38 million residents in 16,000 communities in all 50 states, plus U.S. territories and military bases.

"I really **appreciate the police** and all they do for us," resident Amie Keeling said.

"This is one of our most popular community events," Police Chief Jerry Price said.

Price stressed the collaborative efforts of sponsors, city departments, the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and community groups in pulling off the event.

Sgt. David Morrison said the connection is summed up in the department's mission statement: "In partnership with our community, we provide the **highest quality of police service** with pride, respect, integrity and professionalism."

**COFFEE WITH A COP** provides an opportunity for the community to learn about the department's work in **La Habra neighborhoods**, one cup of coffee at a time.

"Coffee with a Cop breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, **one-on-one interaction**," Lt. Brian Miller said.

"This is an event where the community gets to know police officers and ask them any question they want, and it's **great for the officers** too," Chief Jerry Price said. "It's not a tactical situation; it is a chance to just go have a conversation, show that they're normal and interact."





## 2017 CEREMONY

### Corporal Shawn Miller

Miller has worked as a Special Investigations Unit Narcotics Detective and as a member of the O.C. Financial Investigations Task Force.

### Sergeant Eric Ocampo

Ocampo has served as a Field Training Officer, Investigator, Taser instructor, and Team Supervisor of North County SWAT.

### Lieutenant Clint Angle

Angle has served as a member of North County SWAT, the Special Investigations Unit, and the Gang Unit.

### Lieutenant Adam Foster

Foster has been a fraud/forgery detective on the General Investigations Unit and supervisor for North County SWAT.

### Captain Dean Capelletti

Capelletti has served as an Explorer Advisor, Field Training Officer, arrest and control tactics instructor, North County SWAT Team Leader and Team Commander.



## 2018 CEREMONY

### Sergeant Dave Morrison

Morrison has been an honor guard member, School Resource Officer and earned the 2012 American Legion Officer of the Year award.

### Sergeant Jennifer Southern

Southern has served as a General Investigations Unit Detective and received recognition for her DUI efforts.

### Sergeant Kim Razey

Razey has been a Special Investigations Unit Gang Detective, North County SWAT Crisis Negotiator, and on the Department of Homeland Security Financial Interdiction Team Task Force.

### Lieutenant Brian Miller

Miller has served as a motor officer, Special Investigations Unit Detective Sergeant, and North County SWAT member.

### Corporal David Diaz

Diaz has worked as a General Investigations Unit Detective and Special Investigations Narcotics Unit Task Force Officer.

### Corporal Craig Hentcy

Hentcy has worked as a Field Training Officer, Range Master, and General Investigations Unit Detective, as well as the police association president.

## RETIREES

**Dave Crivelli** 07/07/96 – 06/23/17

**Jeff Baylos** 10/19/87 – 06/24/17

**Barbara Romero** 10/01/84 – 07/01/17

**Cindy Knapp** 10/01/79 – 08/18/17

**Jose Quirarte** 03/19/90 – 08/25/17

**Mel Ruiz** 03/19/90 – 08/25/17

**Reta Black** 04/15/02 – 12/29/17

**Bonnie Hart** 07/18/98 – 12/30/17

**Cynthia Gulley** 12/12/88 – 04/07/17

**Rob Diehl** 11/19/02 – 03/26/18

**Linda Kerchner-Kemp** 06/12/95 – 06/08/18

**Jan Conner** 08/23/93 – 12/29/18

**Bridget Valdez-Edwards** 02/13/00 – 12/29/18



**COMMUNITY POLICING AWARD WINNER** Detective Noah Daniels, a member of the gang unit, was honored May 4, 2017, by **OC Human Relations** at the AWARDS 46 Celebration at City National Grove of Anaheim. The event formally recognizes and awards individuals, groups, and businesses **making a difference**.

Daniels received the Community Policing Award for his outreach efforts that led to regular meetings of community members, police, and other city departments.

Daniels and Detective Mucio Sanchez went door-to-door handing out **English-Spanish fliers** inviting residents to attend the first meeting. Since, the group has grown into more than 50 who meet regularly.

"These people live here – they are the eyes and ears of their area," Daniels said.

A block party was held in conjunction with parks and recreation to bolster the outreach, and police and city members helped beautify the neighborhood via activities like tree planting during the event.

"So far I think the response has been really positive," Daniels said. "I believe that **crime has dropped** in that area. I believe that resident response to us has become much more positive. People have been more keen to come in and report crimes."

The agency wants to be a **positive force for change**, in addition to crime management, he said.

And while he realizes he got the ball rolling, he calls himself "a very small cog in this."

"The main credit goes to all the people (involved) that did this," he said. "They really are the **true heroes** in this."

## Osornio Award 2017

Officer Justin Cassidy

## 20 Years of Service

Sergeant Dave Crivelli

## 25 Years of Service

Chief Jerry Price, Sergeant Ron Hurst and Captain George Johnstone

## 30 Years of Service

Retired Officer Chris Koelber

## American Legion Officer of the Year

Officer Michael Costanzo

## Osornio Award 2018

Officer Steven Highley

## 20 Years of Service

Property & Evidence Technician Linda Kemp, Lead Communications Operator Kristen Kernohan, and Sergeant Jim Tigner

## 25 Years of Service

Corporal John Jaime

## 30 Years of Service

Sergeant Jeffrey Baylos, Records Specialist Jan Conner, and Lieutenant Mel Ruiz

## American Legion Officer of the Year

Sergeant Jose Rocha

“

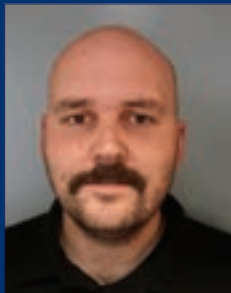
“This awards banquet is by far my favorite event of the year.”

— POLICE CHIEF  
**JERRY PRICE**



## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2017

**JANUARY**



**OFFICER JOSE  
SANCHEZ JR.**

**FEBRUARY**



**POLICE SERVICE AIDE  
RUDY MEDINA**

**MARCH**



**OFFICER  
ELISEO FUNES**

**APRIL**



**SENIOR PROPERTY  
TECH  
JESSE JAIME**

**MAY**



**SERGEANT  
KYLE DAVIS**

**JUNE**



**RECORDS SUPERVISOR  
JANINE GORDON**

**JULY**



**OFFICER  
NICK MCDERMOTT**

**AUGUST**



**OFFICER  
CAMERON  
LUITWILER**

**SEPTEMBER**



**COMMUNICATIONS  
LEAD  
KRISTEN KERNOHAN**

**OCTOBER**



**OFFICER  
PAUL MARTINEZ**

**NOVEMBER**



**CORPORAL  
PAUL MCPHILLIPS**

**DECEMBER**



**DETECTIVE  
RICARDO  
RODRIGUEZ**

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2018

**JANUARY**



**OFFICER  
KEVIN LOVE**

**FEBRUARY**



**OFFICER  
EDDIE TORRES**

**MARCH**



**SENIOR ACO  
IAN DAUGHERTY**

**APRIL**



**CSO  
KEN GUSTIN**

**MAY**



**CORPORAL  
NICK BACLIT**

**JUNE**



**SRO  
NATE GARCIA**

**JULY**



**RESERVE OFFICER  
JIM GEER**

**AUGUST**



**PROPERTY TECH  
ROSIE RAMOS**

**SEPTEMBER**



**SERGEANT  
JIM TIGNER**

**OCTOBER**



**RECORDS SPECIALIST  
LARISSA TERRONES**

**NOVEMBER**



**CRIME ANALYST  
PAUL HOWER**

**DECEMBER**



**K9 OFFICER  
TRAVIS NELSON**



The **LA HABRA POLICE DEPARTMENT** offers a **\$10,000 bonus** to experienced officers in California who **join the agency**. The benefits of working at the La Habra Police Department include the strong relationship with the community, training in different types of police work due to the **“all hands on deck”** mentality, and the ability to rotate through **special assignments** within one to three years of joining the police department. **Experienced officers** who join the La Habra Police Department will receive half of the bonus in their first paycheck and the remaining \$5,000 after they pass the one-year probation.

#### WHERE TO APPLY:

La Habra Police Department:

[www.lahabracity.com/227/Police-Department](http://www.lahabracity.com/227/Police-Department)

Governmentjobs.com:

[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lahabraca](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lahabraca)

#### OFFICERS ARE ISSUED:

- Rifle
- Ballistic helmet
- Ballistic plate carrier
- Tourniquets
- Radio
- Taser
- Body camera
- Soft body armor (updated every 5 years)

#### SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- SWAT Team
- Canine Officer
- General Investigations Detective
- Special Investigations Detective
- School Resource Officer
- Motor Officer
- Commercial Enforcement Officer
- Regional Detective Task Force
- Professional Standards

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE LA HABRA POLICE DEPARTMENT? VISIT: [WWW.LAHABRACITY.COM](http://WWW.LAHABRACITY.COM)





# La Habra Police Department

150 N. Euclid Street, La Habra CA, 90631

[www.lahabraca.gov](http://www.lahabraca.gov)

<b>EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.....</b>	<b>911</b>
Non-Emergency Assistance.....	(562) 383-4300
Office of the Chief of Police.....	(562) 383-4302
Watch Commander.....	(562) 383-4347
Police Records.....	(562) 383-4316
Traffic Bureau.....	(562) 383-4345
Investigations Bureau.....	(562) 383-4325
Property & Evidence Unit.....	(562) 383-4320
Animal Control.....	(562) 383-4352

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